We Claim:

1. An extended release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a blend of phenytoin sodium; and

one or more hydrophilic polymers; wherein the blend forms a matrix after contacting an aqueous media and the matrix retains at least about 20% of the phenytoin after 1 hour.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the matrix retains at least about 30% of the phenytoin after 1 hour.

3. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the matrix retains at least about 60% of the phenytoin after 1 hour.

4. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a capsule containing the blend.

5. The composition according to claim 4, wherein the blend comprises a powder.

6. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 40 percent to about 70 percent by weight of phenytoin sodium.

7. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 10 percent to about 30 percent by weight of the one or more hydrophilic polymers.

8. The composition according to claim 7, wherein the one or more hydrophilic polymers comprise one or more of carbohydrate gum, cellulose ether, acrylic acid polymer, and mixtures thereof.

9. The composition according to claim 8, wherein the carbohydrate gum comprises one or more of xanthan gum, tragacanth gum, gum karaya, guar gum, acacia, gellan gum, locust bean gum, and mixtures thereof.

10. The composition according to claim 9, wherein the carbohydrate gum comprises xanthan gum.

11. The composition according to claim 10, wherein the cellulose ether comprises one or more of methyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl butyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and combinations thereof.

12. The composition according to claim 11, wherein the cellulose ether comprises hydroxypropyl cellulose.

13. The composition according to claim 11, wherein the cellulose ether comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

14. The composition according to claim 8, wherein the acrylic acid polymer comprises carboxy vinyl polymer.

15. The composition according to claim 8, wherein the one or more hydrophilic polymers comprise a combination of a cellulose ether and carbohydrate gum.

16. The composition according to claim 15, wherein the cellulose ether comprises a combination of hydroxypropyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the carbohydrate gum comprises xanthan gum.

17. The composition according to claim 1, further comprising one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

18. The composition according to claim 17, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients comprise one or more of diluents, lubricants and glidants.

19. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the diluents comprise one or more of microcrystalline cellulose, powdered cellulose, lactose, starch, mannitol, calcium hydrogen phosphate, and dextrose.

20. The composition according to claim 19, wherein the diluent comprises microcrystalline cellulose.

21. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the lubricant comprises one or more of talc, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, stearic acid, hydrogenated vegetable oil, polyethylene glycol, sodium stearyl fumarate and sodium benzoate.

22. The composition according to claim 21, wherein the lubricant comprises magnesium stearate.

23. The composition according to claim 21, wherein the lubricant comprises talc.

24. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the glidant comprises one or more of colloidal silicon dioxide and talc.

25. The composition according to claim 24, wherein the glidant comprises colloidal silicon dioxide.

26. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition has the following in vitro dissolution profile when tested using USP Apparatus I in water at 75 rpm:

a) not more than about 35 percent released in about 30 minutes,

b) between about 30 percent and about 75 percent released in about 60 minutes, and

c) not less than about 65 percent released in about 120 minutes.

27. A process for preparing an extended release pharmaceutical composition comprising a blend of phenytoin sodium and one or more hydrophilic polymers; the process comprising;

a) blending phenytoin sodium and one or more hydrophilic polymers,

b) screening the blend, and

c) filling the blend into capsules.

28. The process according to claim 27, wherein the matrix retains at least about 30% of phenytoin after 1 hour.

29. The process according to claim 27, wherein the matrix retains at least about 60% of phenytoin after 1 hour.

30. The process according to claim 27, wherein the blend is filled into the capsule in the form of a powder.

31. The process according to claim 27, wherein the composition comprises from about 40 percent to about 70 percent by weight of phenytoin sodium.

32. The process according to claim 27, wherein the composition comprises from about 10 percent to about 30 percent by weight of the one or more hydrophilic polymers.

33. The process according to claim 27, wherein the one or more hydrophilic polymers are selected from one or more of carbohydrate gum, cellulose ether, acrylic acid polymer, and mixtures thereof.

34. The process according to claim 33, wherein the carbohydrate gum comprises one or more of xanthan gum, tragacanth gum, gum karaya, guar gum, acacia, gellan gum, locust bean gum, and mixtures thereof.

35. The process according to claim 34, wherein the carbohydrate gum comprises xanthan gum.

36. The process according to claim 34, wherein the cellulose ether comprises one or more of methyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl butyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and combinations thereof.

37. The process according to claim 36, wherein the cellulose ether comprises hydroxypropyl cellulose.

38. The process according to claim 36, wherein the cellulose ether comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

39. The process according to claim 33, wherein the acrylic acid polymer comprises carboxy vinyl polymer.

40. The process according to claim 33, wherein the one or more hydrophilic polymers comprise a combination of a cellulose ether and carbohydrate gum.

41. The process according to claim 40, wherein the cellulose ether comprises a combination of hydroxypropyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the carbohydrate gum comprises xanthan gum.

42. The process according to claim 27, further comprising blending one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients with the phenytoin sodium and one or more hydrophilic polymers.

43. The process according to claim 42, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable excipients comprise one or more of diluents, lubricants, and glidants.

44. The process according to claim 27, wherein the composition has the following in vitro dissolution profile when tested using USP Apparatus I in water at 75 rpm:

a) not more than about 35 percent released in about 30 minutes,

b) between about 30 and about 75 percent released in about 60 minutes

c) not less than about 65 percent released in about 120 minutes.

45. A method for controlling or treating one or more of generalized tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizures and complex partial (psychomotor, temporal lobe) seizures and prevention and treatment of seizures occurring during or following neurosurgery in a patient in need thereof, the method comprising administering an extended-release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a blend of phenytoin sodium; and

one or more hydrophilic polymers; wherein the blend forms a matrix after contacting an aqueous media and the matrix retains at least about 20% of the phenytoin after 1 hour.

46. The method according to claim 45, further comprising administering an additional pharmaceutically active agent.

47. The method according to claim 46, wherein the additional pharmaceutically active agent comprises one or both of phenobarbitone and pentobarbital.

48. The method according to claim 45, wherein the one or more hydrophilic polymers comprise one or more of carbohydrate gum, cellulose ether, acrylic acid polymer, and mixtures thereof.